

REMARKS

Claims 6-15 have been cancelled and claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 25-27 have been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and other applications. Claims 1-5 and 16-27 are pending in this application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 16-24.

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gregoire (US 2003/0136337). Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregoire in view of Lupkas (US 3,911,862). Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregoire in view of Dolan (US 6,193,825) and Raman (US 4,370,197). Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gregoire in view of Dolan (US 6,193,825) and Raman (US 4,370,197). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Each of independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to include limitations substantially similar to those of claim 16, which was indicated as being allowable. For the same reasons claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 25 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-5, dependent on claim 1, are allowable along with claim 1 and on their own merits. Claims 26 and 27, dependent upon claim 25, are allowable along with claim 25 and on their own merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this case are in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian A. Lemm", is written over a horizontal line.

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